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Délégation française au
Ministère Public
Réquisitoire individuel

Document N° : RF. 1415

Documents 647-PS et 1.637-PS

Ordres d'Hitler et Himmler des 17 août et 23 mai 1938 relatifs aux S.S. et à la police

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Document déposé par le Ministère Public américain le 19 décembre 1945 sous le numéro :

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1415

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY
Date 19 September, 1945

Doc. No. 647-PS

STAFF EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

DESCRIPTION OF ATTACHED DOCUMENT (Under following headings).

Title and Nature: Photostat copy of a Fuehrer Order signed by Hitler re organization of the SS.

Date: 17 Aug.'38 Original ( ) Copy (X) Language: German

LOCATION OF ORIGINAL (also WITNESS if applicable) as of 19 Sep '45:
Unknown. Photostat copy, OCC Files, Nurnberg

SOURCE OF ORIGINAL: 28-B

PERSONS IMPLICATED: HITLER, Adolf; HIMMLER, Heinrich; WEHRMACHT

REFERENCES TO INDEX HEADINGS (Key to Par. nos. of Summary below):

1. CONCENTRATION CAMPS
2. IDEOLOGY, NAZI: Elite Class
3. NSDAP
4. POLICE
5. PREPARATIONS FOR WAR: Military
6. PREPARATIONS FOR WAR: Psychological
7. SS
8. WEHRMACHT

NECESSARY PROCESSING TO PUT IN EVIDENTIARY FORM; LEADS: None

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POINTS (with page references):

This is an extremely important Fuehrer Order giving the organization and utilization of the SS in peace and war. It describes the duties of the Allgemeine (General) SS, armed and Totenkopf (Deathshead) SS, sets up officers' schools, etc. It defines the chain of command and the authorities of Hitler, Himmler, the OKW, etc.

Buchsbaum

Doc. No. 647-PS

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TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT 647 PS
OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEFOF COUNSEL

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hoto copies copy (in ink)

ontrol number

Enclosure to number 1164/38

top secret WFA/I II

Draft of June 3rd with changes Reichsfuehrer SS(R.F. SS) of June 10, 1938 and additions concerning signal corps unit (chrichten Sturmbann)

ink) 1st Copy

3 copies
1st copy

T O P S C R E T

Fuehrer and Reich's Chancellor.

Berlin, 17 August 19
(in ink)

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(Signature illegible)

By means of the nomination of the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police in the Ministry of the Interior on June 17th 1936 (Reichsgesetzblatt I, page 487), I have created the basis for the unification and reorganization of the German police.

With this step, the Schutzstaffeln of the NSDAP which were under the Reichsfuehrer SS and chief of the German Police even up to now, have entered into close connection with the duties of the German police.

In order to regulate these tasks and in order to delineate the common tasks of the SS and of the Wehrmacht, I hereby order the following inclusively and basically:
(the above written in pencil)

I General

Being a political organization of the NSDAP, the SS as such, does not need any military set-up and training for her political obligations. It carries no weapons.

For special innerpolitical tasks to the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of German police; tasks which I might have to assign him from time to time, or for the mobile use within the wartime army (SS-Verfuegungstruppe). The following SS units which either already exist, or will be set-up in case of mobilization, are exempted from the regulations of number 1;

The SS-Verfuegungstruppe
The SS-Junkerschulen
The SS-Totenkopfverbaende,
The SS-reinforcement Totenkopfverbaende (Police reinforcement)

In peacetime, they are under the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police, who with the exception mentioned in paragraph II, alone, has the responsibility for the organization, training arming, and full use in regard to inner-political tasks given him from me.

In peace time, no organizational connection with the Wehrmacht exists in this regard. See orders in II and III for the case of mobilization.

Arms, ammunition, tools, equipment, and military handbooks for the armed SS units will be procured through the Wehrmacht, upon payment.

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TRANSLATION OF DOCUMENT 647 PS
Continued

II The Armed Units of the SS

(The SS-Verfuegungstruppe)

1) The SS Verfuegungstruppe is neither a part of the Wehrmacht nor a part of the police. It is a standing armed unit, exclusively at my disposal. As such, and as a unit of the NSDAP its members are to be selected by the Reichsfuehrer SS according to the phylosophical (weltanschaulich) and political standards which I have ordered for the NSDAP and for the SS Stabstaffeln. Its members are to be trained and its ranks filled with volunteers from those who are subject to serve in the army who have finished their duties in the obligatory labor service. The service period for volunteers is 4 years. It may be prolonged for SS-Unterfuehrer. Special resolutions are in force for SS Leaders. The regular compulsory military service (par. 1 of the law relating to military service) is fulfilled by service of the same amount of time in the SS Verfuegungstruppe.

The SS Verfuegungstruppe receives its financial resources through the Ministry of the Interior. Its budget requires a check up by the High Command of the Wehrmacht.

2) The SS Verfuegungstruppe falls into the following parts:

1 headquarters staff.
Personal protective unit (Leibstandarte-SS Adolf Hitler) motorized (in ink)
3 units (Standarten)
2 motorcycle units (Kradschuetzen-Sturmbann) under a Standarte Staff
1 engineer unit (Pionniersturmbann) motorized (in ink)
1 signal unit (Nachrichtensturmbann) motorized (in ink)
1 medical unit.

The complete strength, the organization, the arming, and the equipment of the SS Verfuegungstruppe depend on the task allocated in peace time and in case of mobilization.

In case of mobilization, the Standarten and independent Sturmbanne are organized like the corresponding units of an infantry division respectively the motorized infantry division of the army (illegible remark in ink)

The engineer unit is fully motorized.

The signal unit (motorized) is organized like an infantry division signal unit motorized).

The peacetime strength and equipment of the army are the pattern for the strength and equipment of the staffs and units of the SS Verfuegungstruppe. Personal and material necessary above the peacetime strength and the table of equipment will be determined in cooperation with the High Command of the Wehrmacht and the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German Police.

For use in the interior, the Standarten are reinforced by the following special formation:

(Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler)

reinforced by:
1 Armored reconnaissance platoon
(Panzerspaeh..., the word "zug" is added in ink)
1 motorcycle platoon (Kradschuetzensturm)
1 engineer platoon (Kraft-Pionier-Zug)

the other Standarten

by:
each 1 armored reconnaissance platoon
1 light infantry motorcycle platoon.

and by additional telephone and radio units for the signal platoons.

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The not motorized units

by:
1 trucking platoon each
(Kraftwagen-Transportkolonne)

The signal unit (motorized) with additional means of communication in order to safeguard the communication system of the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police. The necessary personnel and material will be determined in cooperation with the High Command of the Wehrmacht and the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police.

The final aim is the complete motorization of all Standarten and independent units; in the case of mobilization, the skeleton corps of the reinforcement units of the SS Totenkopfverbaende, to whom in peace time the short training of replacements for the SS Totenkopfverbaende was entrusted, be devoted to the task of insuring replacements for the SS Verfuegungstruppe. (C 2)

The supreme commander of the army prepares the SS Verfuegungstruppe for its use within the wartime army. He issues the necessary orders, regulates their working with reserve army authorities, supports the training and makes inspections. He is authorized to transfer these powers to lower echelon offices and to report some about the state of combat training, after prior consultation with the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police.

A timely exchange of officers, respectively leaders between the army and the SS Verfuegungstruppe is to be carried out in mutual agreement as soon as the officer situation permits it.

Any changes in the organization, the strength and the arming of the Verfuegungstruppe have to be approved by us.

3) Orders for the case of mobilization

The employment of the SS Verfuegungstruppe in case of mobilization is made one:

1) By the supreme commander of the army within the wartime army. In this case, it comes completely under military laws and regulation, but remains of the NSDAP politically.
2) In case of necessity in the interior according to my orders. In this case, it is under the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police.

In case of mobilization I myself, will make the decision about the time, strength and manner of the incorporation of the SS Verfuegungstruppe into the wartime army, these things will depend on the inner political situation at time.

During war, the skeleton corps of the reinforcement units of the SS Totenkopfverbaende, to whom in peacetime the short training of replacements for the SS Totenkopfverbaende was entrusted are to be devoted to the task of insuring a reserve which should meet the phylosophical(Weltanschaulich) and political spirit of the Verfuegungstruppe.

In case of mobilization, all members of the SS who did their compulsory military duty in the SS Verfuegungstruppe are generally to be used to reinforce the SS Verfuegungstruppe. Older classes of the SS Verfuegungstruppe may be used to fill up the ranks of the reinforcement of the SS Totenkopfverbaende police reinforcement which will be set up in case of mobilization in so far as they are not needed as replacements for the SS Verfuegungstruppe.

In case of mobilization, the replacements for the SS Verfuegungstruppe may be used to fill up the ranks of young, untrained draftees.

The SS Junker Schools:

1) The SS Junker schools including the SS medical Junker school educa-

to Fuehrer successors (Fuehrernachwuchs) for the armed parts of the SS and for the German police.

2) The Junkers who have served at least one year of front line duty in the SS Verfuegungstruppe and have completed the SS Junker schools and the non-commissioned officer schools successfully afterwards, and have accordingly served more than two years under arms (see para 8 of the military law) fulfilled their compulsory military duty.

Leaders and leader aspirants who have successfully finished the Non-commissioned Officer School in service, that is incorporated into the Wehrmacht will be given a rank which corresponds to their rank inthe armed forces ofthe SS, or in the police.

3) The budjets of the SS Verfuegungstruppe, the SS Totenkopfverbaende, and the German police will bear the material costs of the schools for that number of Junkers which corresponds to their calculated need for leaders.

4) These order about the SS Junker schools are in force retroactive to the 15th 1935.

The SS Totenkopfverbaende

1.) The SS Totenkopfverbaende are neither a part of the army nor of the police. They are a standing armed unit of the SS to clear up special tasks of police nature. I reserve the right to assign duties from time to time.

As such, as a unit of the NSDAP, they are to be selected and trained according to the phylosophical (Weltanschaulich) and political directives which I have issued for the NSDAP and for the Schutzstaffeln; they are to be replaced by the use of volunteers capable of serving the SS, who as a rule have served their compulsory military duty in the army. The army must give its agreement for special cases of exception. These units are under the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police who is responsible to me for their organization, training, arming, and full readiness for action.

The Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police is entitled to recruit suitable volunteers of the army before their discharge in cooperation with the supreme command of the Army.

The service period for Non-commissioned officers (Unterfuehrer) and men, 12 years. service time in the army is to be counted. The necessary question of the pension will be taken up at a later date.

The SS Totenkopfverbaende receive their financial means through the Ministry of the Interior.

Starting April 1st, 1938, the SS Totenkopfverbaende are organized as follows:

Director to staff with signal unit,
4 Standarten with 3 Sturmbanne each with 3 infantry groups (each 1/4 men strong)
1 machine gun group (150 men strong)
1 medical unit
1 medical group necessary for the medical care of those camp prisoners who work outside

Besides, each Standarte:
1 motorcycle group (crossed out)
1 group with weapons suited for street fights to be set up in 1939 (crossed out)
1 trucking unit (Kraftfahrstaffel-KW-Transportkolonne)
1 Signal platoon (Nachrichtenzug)
Besides 1 signal platoon for each Sturmban to be set up in 1939 (crossed out)

2) Replacement units for the short time training for the reinforcement of the SS Totenkopfverbaende (police reinforcement). Strength corresponding to the reinforcement battalion (E-Bt) of the Army. All units of the SS Totenkopfverbaende are to be motorized temporarily with 3 ton Opel-Blitz cars.

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3) The strength and organization of the units will be determined by the content of their special tasks of police nature (see figure 1) and will be determined by me according to requirements upon suggestions of the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police.

4) The armament and equipment of the SS Totenkopfverbaende depends on their special tasks (see figure1); both are to be suggested to me by the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police, after he has discussed them with the supreme command of the army.

5) Regulations for the case of the Mobilization.

The SS Totenkopfverbaende form the skeleton corps for the reinforcement of the SS Totenkopfverbaende (police reinforcement;) and will be replaced in the guarding of the concentration camps by members of the General SS who are 45 years of age and had military training.

The skeleton corps which up to now, were units of the two replacement units for the short time training of the reinforcement of the SS Totenkopfverbaende will be transferred to the SS Verfuegungstruppe as skeleton units of the replacement units for that unit.

II Reinforcement of the SS Totenkopfverbaende (Police reinforcement)

1) The reinforcement of the SS Totenkopfverbaende is a police unit which will be set up and armed automatically in the case or mobilization, in an emergency, at my command.

2) The Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police will decide the strength within the total strength of all police units which I shall determine for the territory of the Reich.

3) The organization, distribution of units, armament, and training of the reinforcement of the SS Totenkopfverbaende depend entirely on the police tasks they will have to handle.

The Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German Police

The responsibility for the full readiness for action in that respect rests with who will have to make suitable suggestions to me concerning armament and equipment, after prior consultation with the supreme command of the Army.

4) The training of the reinforcements of the SS Totenkopfverbaende are provided for the use of war and are between 25 and 35 years of age, will be undertaken in peace time by the replacement units of the SS Totenkopfverbaende (compare with C 2)

5) The Ministry of the Interior will request the financial resources for the training of the reinforcement of the SS Totenkopfverbaende from the supreme command of the army, as R.V. special resources.

III The General SS (Allgemeine SS)

All other members, not mentioned in I or II of the general SS (Allgemeine SS) which is unarmed, are just at the disposal of the army in case of war (according to the regulations of the military law Wehrgesetz)

However, considering the special inner-political tasks which the SS has to solve in close connection with the German police in case of mobilization, I hereby order the following:

1) The Staff of the Reichsfuehrer SS, the staffs of the three main offices (SS Sd, and RuS main officer, the SS Oberabschnittsstaebe and SS Abschnittsstaebe, remain in case of war for tasks of police nature. The Reichsfuehrer SS regulates their strength which will be cut down to a minimum size, for that purpose, SS members provided for these staffs are to be deferred from service in the army in case of war.

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2) All clothing and equipment, motor cars, arms, ammunition and other plant owned by the SS are regulated by the lawful orders in case of mobilization; this, provided they are not necessary for the setting up of the armed SS units and Staffs mentioned under I and II.

IV Decrees of execution

The supreme command of the army issues the decrees of execution (Ausfuehrungsbestimmungen) necessary to paragraph II in all questions concerning the army and the case of mobilization in cooperation with the Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police.

The Reichsfuehrer SS and Chief of the German police issues the decrees of execution (Ausfuehrungbestimmungen) concerning the police and inner political measures in cooperation with the supreme command of the army..

/s/ Hitler

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION
OF DOCUMENT NO. 647 PS

I, FRED NIEBERGALL, 2nd Lt., Inf., O-1335567, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages; and that the above is a true and correct translation of Document No. 647 PS.

FRED NIEBERGALL,
2nd Lt., Inf.,
O-1335567

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